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Subject: Williams Olefins Explosion - Status
Date: Thursday, June 13, 2013 2:50:33 PM

Just got off the phone with Robert Sherman and wanted to pass along the information he has gathered so far, some of you have probably already spoken with him, but wanted to get in down in writing.

The fire that resulted from the explosion is out, but there is a heavy plume emanating from one of the flares. Propylene is being fed to the flares through relief valves due to either the refrigeration system on a low pressure tank being knocked out due to the loss of power, or the heat from the fire causing material in a high pressure tank to exceed the action level of the relief valve. There is an incomplete combustion of the propylene due to the volume and inability (loss of power) to force air/oxygen to the combustion point. At this point the facility considers the flare to be uncontrolled and is unable to estimate how long the flare will be in this state of operation.

Robert took the pH of the firefighting runoff water within a roadside ditch, approximately ½ mile from the plant. pH was 5-6, which plant representatives thought was a little lower than expected. START did not observe any sheen or aquatic wildlife mortality.

LDEQ's main concern are the residential areas approximately 2.5 miles to the northeast, and to the west northwest, Dutchtown and Geismar. Winds are currently 6 mph out to the west. LDEQ is conducting air monitoring runs in the neighborhoods with multiRaes, and has collected a few samples with summa cannisters. Their mobile air monitoring lab (MAML) has been deployed and will be running samples. The LDEQ has not had any hits on the monitoring runs. LDEQ personnel on site are Robert Laurent and Kevin Borne.

Due to budgetary issues, LDEQ says they cannot provide 24 hr air monitoring and has asked START if they would assume that role after LDEQ departs for the evening. Robert replied that we would pass that request along to you all.

There has been one confirmed fatality, and varying numbers of injured (60-74). Robert said there might be one person unaccounted for.

I believe LDEQ will be departing prior to John's arrival, so if we could receive some direction regarding the residential air monitoring question it would assist us with planning for personnel to conduct 24 hr operations.

Thanks, will continue to send along information as we receive.



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